Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03677 131130Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----------131138Z 047188 /16
R 131034Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3469

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3677

STADIS//////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, US, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: BUCAI WIDOW

REF: STATE 133383

1. ACCORDING TO TOUTAH, APPLICATION OF HELWANI WIDOW (NEE BUCAI) AND THREE CHILDREN FOR PASSPORTS WAS APPROVED BY LT. COL. ABD AL-SAMAD AND PASSED ON TO COL. MESSAOUD WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT BAIL BE SET FOR ENTIRE FAMILY AT L.S. 5000. MESSAOUD, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN SITTING ON CASE. HIS CONCERN IS NOT SO MUCH BAIL, WHICH TOUTAH ADMITS COULD EASILY BE RAISED TO 20,000 L.S. OR EVEN HIGHER, BUT POSSIBILITY THAT CHILDREN WILL SOONER OR LATER WIND UP IN ISRAEL THEREBY INCREASING CAPABILITY OF ENEMY. TOUTAH SPECIFICALLY DENIES THAT HE AT ANY TIME REFUSED TO ASSIST WITH BAIL. HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE UP BUCAI CASE WITH MESSAOUD AGAIN IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. HEANWHILE, WIDOW'S MOTHER WHO WAS TO HAVE ACCOMPANIED HER TO US AND RETURN TO DAMASCUS HAS BEEN GIVEN PASSPORT AND IS NOW IN BROOKLYN VISITING BUCAI FAMILY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 03677 131130Z

3. ON MONEY TRANSFER, TOUTAH STRONGLY PREFERS INTRA FAMILY TRANSACTIONS -- US RELATIVES PROVIDING FUNDS FOR SYRIAN RELATIVES. ORGANIZATIONAL INVOLVEMENT AT EITHER END, HE FEARS, WOULD COMPLICATE TRANSFERS AS WOULD NAMING HIM AS RECIPIENT. TRANSACTION COULD BE EITHER CHECK SENT OR CARRIED DIRECTLY TO SYRIAN RELATIVE OR BANK TRANSFER SENT TO COMMERCIAL BANK OF SYRIA WITH NOTIFICATION MAILED TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

SYRIAN RELATIPE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN BUCAI CASE, BANK
TRANSFER IN NAME OF SURA BUCAI, QUARTIER JUIF (ZNAYQAT)
RPT (ZNAYQAT), DAMASCUS COULD BE SENT TO COMMERCIAL BANK
OF SYRIA, BRANCH NO. 4., DAMASCUS, SYRIA. ALTERNATIVELY
AND PREFERABLY IN THIS CASE, MOTHER COULD BRING BACK CHEIK
WITH HER TO DAMASCUS THEREBY REMOVING RISK OF LOSS IN
INTERNATIONAL MAILS AND GIVING FAMILY OPTION WHETHER AND
WHEN TO PRESENT CHECK FOR COLLECTION.

4. NEW SUBJECT: SHALOM HAS MADE GREAT AND FAVORABLE
IMPRESSION ON COMMUNITY; TOUTAH, NOSSEIRI AND BALLAS HAVE
ALL MENTIONED TO ME HOW MUCH THEY ARE LOOKING
FORWARD TO HIS RETURN. CAN YOU ADVISE HIS ITINERARY?
THEIR EAGERNESS MAY BE PARTIALLY RESULT OF RABBI HECHT
FALL THROUGH (AFTER BIG BUILDUP) WHICH THEY DO NOT
U DERSTAND. ALSO, RABBI HECHT HAS NEPER SENT EXPECTED
RELIGIOUS ITEMS, EVEN THOUGH TOUTAH GAVE US SPECIFIC
ADDRESSING INSTRUCTIONS. (THIS IS NOT A REQUEST, JUST FYI.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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